CCRB INVESTIGATIVE RECOMMENDATION

Investigator:		Team:	CCRB Case #:	\square	Force		Discourt.	U.S.
Chelsea Yogerst		Squad #11	201601216	\square	Abuse		O.L.	☐ Injury
Incident Date(s)		Location of Incident:		 	Precinct:	10	Mo. SOL	EO SOL
` '			D 4561	[
Sunday, 02/14/2016 12:10 AM		1850 Jerome Avenue b Street and Mount Hope			46	8,	/14/2017	8/14/2017
Date/Time CV Reported		CV Reported At:	How CV Reported	:	Date/Time	Rec	eived at CC	RB
Mon, 02/15/2016 11:18 AM		CCRB	Call Processing System		Mon, 02/1	5/201	16 11:18 Al	M
Complainant/Victim	Type	Home Addre	ess					
Subject Officer(s)	Shield	TaxID	Command					
1. SGT Jeffrey Heilig	01065	941886	PBBX SU					
2. POM Joseph Signorile	29637	949663	PBBX SU					
3. POM Michael Romanello	02483	952185	PBBX SU					
Officer(s)	Allegati	o n			Inve	stiga	ator Recor	nmendation
A.SGT Jeffrey Heilig	Abuse: S § 87(2)(b)	Sgt. Jeffrey Heilig stoppe and § 87(2)(b)	ed the vehicle in white were occupants.	ich				
B.POM Joseph Signorile	Abuse: I	PO Joseph Signorile stop		hicl	ı			
C.POM Michael Romanello	Abuse: I	PO Michael Romanello s	stopped the vehicle i were occupants.	n wl	nich			
D.POM Joseph Signorile	Force: P § 87(2)(b)	O Joseph Signorile used	physical force again	ıst				
E.POM Joseph Signorile	Abuse: I	O Joseph Signorile frish	ked § 87(2)(b)					
F.POM Joseph Signorile	Abuse: I	O Joseph Signorile sear	ched § 87(2)(b)					
G.POM Joseph Signorile	Force: P § 87(2)(b)	O Joseph Signorile used	physical force again	ıst				
H.SGT Jeffrey Heilig	Abuse: S	gt. Jeffrey Heilig threat	ened to arrest § 87(2)(b)					
I.POM Joseph Signorile	Abuse: I § 87(2)(b)	PO Joseph Signorile sear and § 87(2)(b)	were occupants.	whic	ch			
J.SGT Jeffrey Heilig		gt. Jeffrey Heilig refuse to § 87(2)(b)	ed to provide his shie	eld				
K.POM Joseph Signorile	Abuse: I number	PO Joseph Signorile refuto \$87(2)(b)	used to provide his sh	nield				
L.POM Michael Romanello	Abuse: I	PO Michael Romanello r to § 87(2)(b)	refused to provide hi	s sh	ield			

Case Summary

On February 14, 2016, at approximately 12:01 a.m., §87(2)(b) was picked up from his
residence at in Manhattan by an Uber car driven by \$87(2)(b)
requested that \$87(2)(b) take him to his friend's residence at \$87(2)(b) in
the Bronx. At 12:10am, the vehicle was pulled over at 1850 Jerome Avenue in the Bronx by Sgt.
Jeffery Heilig, PO Joseph Signorile, and PO Michael Romanello, all of the Patrol Borough Bronx
(Allegations A-C). PO Signorile allegedly grabbed the collar of \$87(2)(b) s jacket and pulled
him out of the back passenger seat of the vehicle (Allegation D). PO Signorile patted down
§ 87(2)(b) s sweatpants pockets, jacket pockets his chest area and down his legs (Allegation E). PO
Signorile reached into both of his front sweatpants pockets (Allegation F). PO Signorile allegedly
struck §87(2)(b) in the neck area, grabbed onto his shoulders and forcefully turned him around
(Allegations G). Sgt. Heilig allegedly told \$87(2)(b) that they could arrest him for having an
open container of alcohol (Allegation H). PO Signorile searched the back of the vehicle
(Allegation I). §87(2)(b) allegedly requested the badge number of all three officers but they did
not provide them (Allegation J-L). The officers did not arrest \$87(2)(b) or
issue them any summonses or documentation.



2016-04-21 10-16-04.mp4

provided video footage that captures a few seconds of this incident that he recorded on his cell phone.

Mediation, Civil and Criminal Histories

- This case was not suitable for mediation because \$87(2)(b) is planning on filing a lawsuit.
- On April 27, 2016, an inquiry was sent to the NYC Comptroller's Office to determine whether (Sor(2)(b)) has filed a Notice of Claim regarding the incident. The results are pending and will be included in the case file upon their receipt (Board Review 37). On April 22, 2016, an inquiry was sent to the NYC Comptroller's Office to determine whether (Sor(2)(b)) has filed a Notice of Claim regarding the incident. The results are pending and will be included in the case file upon their receipt (Board Review 29).
- § 87(2)(g)

Civilian and Officers CCRB Histories

- This is \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(b) s first CCRB complaint (Board Review 22 and 30).
- Sgt. Heilig has been a member of the service for 9 years and has 8 allegations in 3 prior cases. Among these allegations, there are no substantiated allegations [\$87(2)(9)]
- PO Signorile has been a member of the service for 5 years and has 6 allegations in 3 prior cases. Among these allegations, there are no substantiated allegations \$87(2)(9) \$87(2)(9) \$87(4-b)
- PO Romanello has been a member of the service for 4 years and has 7 allegations in 5 prior cases. §87(2)(9) In case

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201301175, a refusal to obtain medical treatment allegation was substantiated; the Board recommended charges; PO Romanello was found not guilty after the trial. § 87(4-b).

Findings and Recommendation

ne vehicle, PO Signorile asked him if nitted he had an open container of frisking \$87(2)(b) he asked \$27(2) he ged this. \$87(4-b), \$87(2)(9)
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	A	
2016-04-21	10-	16-04.mp4

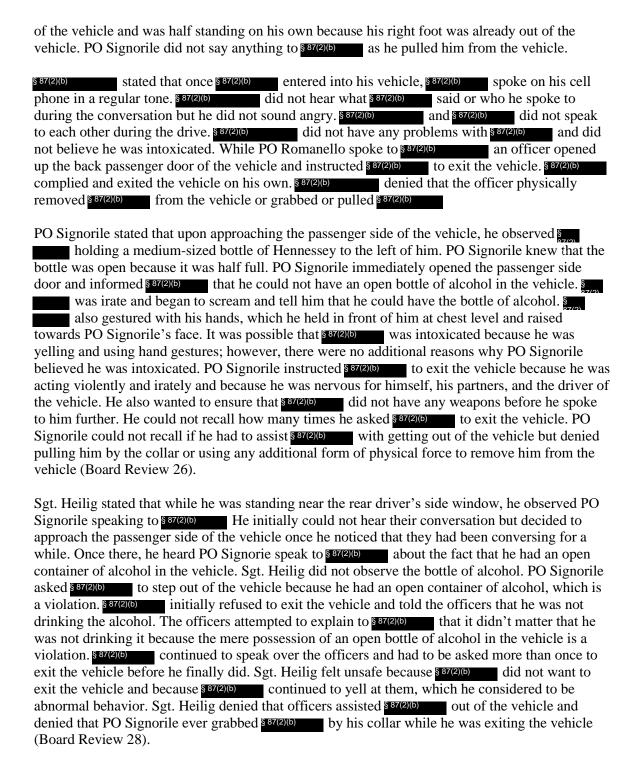
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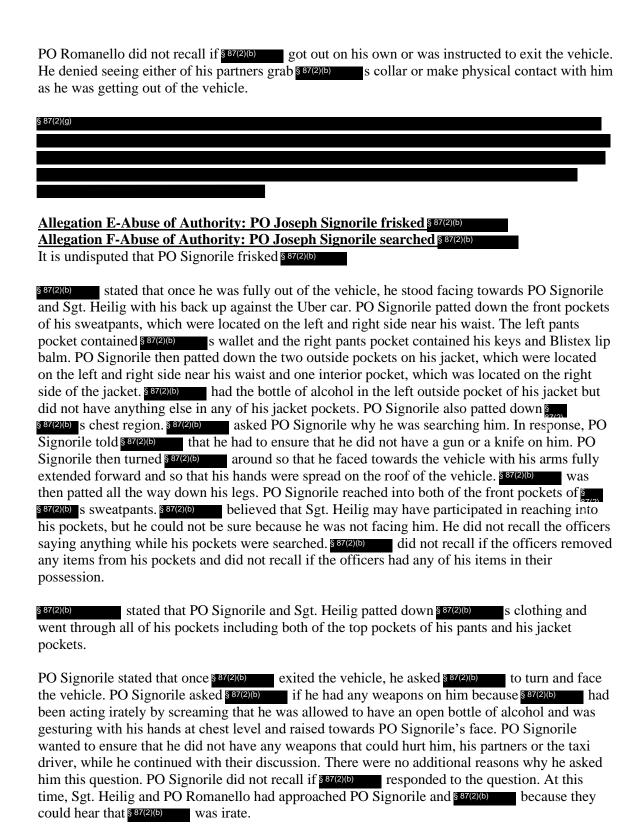
Recommendations

Allegation A-Abuse of Authority: Sgt. Jeffrey Heilig stopped the vehicle in which and § 87(2)(b) were occupants. Allegation B-Abuse of Authority: PO Joseph Signorile stopped the vehicle in which and § 87(2)(b) were occupants. Allegation C-Abuse of Authority: PO Michael Romanello stopped the vehicle in which and § 87(2)(b) were occupants. As documented in photos taken of \$87(2)(b) s vehicle at his residence, he has a decorative object hanging from his rearview mirror (Board Review 12 and 15). The officers consistently stated that they stopped \$87(2)(b) s vehicle for the VTL infraction regarding the obstructed windshield, which they all noted in their memo books (Board Review 23, 24, 25). It is undisputed that the officers did not issue a summons to §87(2)(b) regarding the infraction. stated that when PO Romanello approached the driver's side of the vehicle, he asked \$87(2)(b) if everything was okay with his passenger and if anything was wrong. He then explained to § 87(2)(b) that he had been pulled over so that they could check his passenger but did not provide any specific reasons why. PO Romanello then requested \$ 87(2)(b) s license and paperwork and asked him if \$87(2)(b) was a good guy. \$87(2)(b)

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provided the requested documentation and informed PO Romanello that \$87(2)(6) was a good guy and was not causing any problems (Board Review 32).
stated that he was unable to hear the discussion between PO Romanello and Towards the end of the incident, Ser(2)(b) asked PO Romanello why they had stopped him. PO Romanello told him that it was because there had been reports of cab drivers being robbed in the neighborhood. When Ser(2)(b) asked PO Romanello if he matched the description of someone they were looking for in the neighborhood, he told him that he did not and they were just doing their jobs because there had been reports of robberies (Board Review 33).
The officers all stated that they used their discretion and chose not to issue a summons regarding the obstruction. PO Romanello testified that once he approached \$87(2)(b) he explained to him that he had been stopped because of the obstructed view. PO Romanello did not recall asking about \$87(2)(b) and did not recall \$87(2)(b) ever expressing to him that he felt unsafe with \$87(2)(b) (Board Review 27).
VTL §375 (30) states that it is unlawful to hang anything on or inside a vehicle that obstructs the view of the operator through the windshield (Board Review 34). A vehicle stop due to probable cause of the occurrence of a traffic violation is reasonable detention per the Fourth Amendment even if additional law enforcement purpose ultimately precipitates the stop. Whren v. United States, 517 U.S. 806 (1996) (Board Review 09).
§ 87(2)(g)
Allegation D-Force: PO Joseph Signorile used physical force against \$87(2)(b) stated he had not noticed \$87(2)(b) make any traffic infractions and asked him what he had done. In response, \$87(2)(b) told him that he did not know. Once they had been pulled over, PO Signorile and Sgt. Heilig approached \$87(2)(b) who was seated in the back of the vehicle on the passenger side. PO Romanello approached \$87(2)(b) on the driver's side. PO Signorile asked \$87(2)(b) where the Uber had picked him up. In response, \$87(2)(b) told
him his home address. PO Signorile then asked \$\frac{\$\sigma^{\chi(2)(0)}}{\sigma^{\chi(2)(0)}}\$ where he was going. \$\frac{\$\sigma^{\chi(2)(0)}}{\sigma^{\chi(2)(0)}}\$ showed him a text message with the address to his friend's apartment because he did not recall the exact address. PO Signorile then opened the back passenger seat door, instructed \$\frac{\$\sigma^{\chi(2)(0)}}{\sigma^{\chi(2)(0)}}\$ informed him that he did not have anything other than a closed bottle of Hennessy Privilege in his jacket pocket. The bottle was 275 ML and was approximately half full. While \$\frac{\$\sigma^{\chi(2)(0)}}{\sigma^{\chi(2)(0)}}\$ was in the process of exiting the vehicle through the door, PO Signorile grabbed the collar of his jacket and pulled him out of the vehicle. When PO Signorile grabbed \$\frac{\$\sigma^{\chi(2)(0)}}{\sigma^{\chi(2)(0)}}\$ s collar, \$\frac{\$\sigma^{\chi(2)(0)}}{\sigma^{\chi(2)(0)}}\$ was half-way out





§ 87(2)(g)
§ 87(2)(g)
Allegation G-Force: PO Joseph Signorile used physical force against 867(2)(b)
stated that as he was attempting to memorize the license plate number of the officers' vehicle by reciting it out loud, PO Signorile noticed him doing so and subsequently struck him in the neck area. He instructed \$87(2)(6) to look and listen to him while he was talking and proceeded to grab onto his shoulders near his biceps and forcefully turn him around so that the license plate was no longer in his view. \$87(2)(6) acknowledged that he did not obtain any
injuries or receive any medical treatment as a result of the force used against him. 887(2)(b) did not allege seeing any officers strike \$87(2)(b) in the neck, grab him by his shoulders or forcefully turn him around. He denied seeing the officers grab or pull \$87(2)(b)
during the incident.
PO Signorile denied that he struck \$87(2)(b) in the neck, grabbed him by the shoulders or made any form of physical contact with him other than patting him down. PO Signorile did not recall ever reciting the license plate number out loud and denied that he or his partners ever told \$87(2)(b) to stop memorizing the license plate number.
Sgt. Heilig denied that his partners struck \$87(2)(b) in the neck. He could not recall if his partners ever grabbed \$87(2)(b) by the shoulders or forcefully turned him around. He also did not recall if \$87(2)(b) ever attempted to memorize the license plate of their vehicle.
PO Romanello denied that his partners struck \$87(2)(b) in the neck, forcefully turned him around or grabbed him by the shoulders.
§ 87(2)(g)
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§ 87(2)(g)
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Allegation H-Abuse of Authority: Sgt. Jeffrey Heilig threatened to arrest \$87(2)(6) \$87(2)(6) stated that when Sgt. Heilig told him that he had an open container of alcohol, which is illegal, he responded by telling Sgt. Heilig that he had not consumed any alcohol and that the bottle was small, closed and in his pocket. Sgt. Heilig continuously told \$87(2)(6) that they could arrest him for having an open container because the bottle was not sealed. \$87(2)(6) questioned whether he actually had an open container and asked the officers to just give him a ticket. Sgt. Heilig told \$87(2)(6) that they could not just issue him a ticket and asked him if he wanted to go to jail that night. \$87(2)(6) told Sgt. Heilig that he did not.
could not hear any of the conversation between \$87(2)(b) and the officers because his window was closed.
Sgt. Heilig tried to explain to \$87(2)(b) that he had committed a violation. \$87(2)(b) continued to yell over Sgt. Heilig as he was attempting to speak to him. Sgt. Heilig did tell \$87(2)(b) that he could get a ticket for having an open container but did not recall telling \$87(2)(b) that he could be arrested for having an open container. Sgt. Heilig explained in his CCRB interview that, in general, when individuals commit any violation, they are breaking the law, and can subsequently be brought back to the station house and arrested. Sgt. Heilig did not recall asking \$87(2)(b) if he wanted to go to jail.
PO Signorile denied hearing Sgt. Heilig threaten to arrest [887(2)(b)] tell him that he could be arrested for having an open container or ask him if he wanted to go to jail that night.
PO Romanello did not recall hearing Sgt. Heilig threaten to arrest \$87(2)(b) tell him that he could be arrested for having an open container or ask him if he wanted to go to jail that night.
VTL §1227 states that any operator or passenger of a vehicle with an open container containing an alcoholic beverage is guilty of this traffic infraction (Board Review 36).
§ 87(2)(g)
Allegation I-Abuse of Authority: PO Joseph Signorile searched the vehicle in which and sarely were occupants. Sar(2)(b) stated that either PO Signorile or Sgt. Heilig put his head inside the back of the vehicle and searched the back seats and underneath the floor mats. The officer did not mention what he was looking for. Sar(2)(b) did not see the officer remove anything from his vehicle.

PO Signorile testified that the back passenger door was open and his head crossed the threshold of the door, He then searched the back of the vehicle in the general area where \$87(2)(6) had been sitting, including underneath the doormats and in between the seats. The vehicle search lasted for less than thirty seconds. PO Signorile searched the back of the vehicle to ensure that there was no weapon in the vehicle. He believed that there may have been a weapon inside the vehicle because \$37(2)(6) had been yelling at the officers and using hand gestures. There were no additional reasons why he believed that there was a weapon inside vehicle. PO Signorile was concerned that if there was a weapon inside the vehicle, \$37(2)(6) may return to the vehicle and use it to take out his frustration on \$37(2)(6) PO Signorile did not find or remove anything

§ 87(2)(b) did not allege that any officers searched § 87(2)(b) s vehicle.

Sgt. Heilig did not recall if either of his partners searched the vehicle because he was standing towards the back of the vehicle and was focusing all of his energy and attention on trying to speak to \$87(2)(b) When Sgt. Heilig was asked if he believed that there was a weapon inside the vehicle, he stated that his suspicion was raised because \$87(2)(b) did not want to exit the vehicle and because \$87(2)(b) was yelling. He did not recall there being any additional reasons why he believed there may have been a weapon inside the vehicle.

PO Romanello did not recall if either of his partners searched the vehicle and did not recall there being a discussion between him and his partners regarding the fact that there may be a weapon inside the vehicle.

An officer may conduct a limited search of a vehicle if there is a substantial likelihood that a weapon, which presents an actual and specific danger to the officers' safety, is located within the vehicle. People v. Baksh, 2014 NY Slip OP 112 (Board Review 11).

§ 87(2)(g)	

Allegation J-Abuse of Authority: Sgt. Jeffrey Heilig refused to provide his shield number to

Allegation K -Abuse of Authority: PO Joseph Signorile refused to provide his shield number to \$87(2)(b)

Allegation L- Abuse of Authority: PO Michael Romanello refused to provide his shield number to \$87(2)(5)

stated that he asked PO Signorile and Sgt. Heilig both specifically and more generally for their badge number at least five times but they ignored him. When strong made the requests, both officers were standing in front of him and were approximately a foot away. He could not recall if he made eye contact with the officers, but believed that they heard his requests because he was speaking clearly, loudly and because he made the requests multiple times.

Toward the end of the incident, strong asked PO Romanello for all of the officers' badge

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from the vehicle.

badge numbers tell PO Romane Romanello told A few minutes I him that he wou ser(2)(b) believed identification, give him their b informed him the Signorile return	and told him that they wello that he needed to see him that that he would pater, \$87(2)(b) repeated that the officers were got told the office adge numbers. PO Signat if he remained in the ed to the officers' vehicle officers then immediate	fficer that responded to sould provide them in a sec whis badge number or some provide their badge number of that he needed their badge numbers once he returned bing to try and drive away was that he would remain who rile escorted \$87(2)(5) be welicle, they would give he and simultaneously entered by drove away from the sc	cond. \$87(2)(6) continued form of identification. It is to him when they were the numbers. PO Romanell to the Uber car. Because without providing their here he was to wait for the lack to the Uber car and him their badge numbers. The lack it with Sgt. Heilig and	ed to PO e done. lo told lem to PO d PO
because his win		conversation between \$87(2) ied hearing \$87(2)(b) req		or any
	hield numbers. They als	ecall \$87(2)(5) ever reque o did not recall denying or		
PO Signorile de that he or his pa	enied that § 87(2)(b) eventures ever denied § 87(2)(b)	er requested his or his partn their shield numbers.		enied
§ 87(2)(g)				
Squad:				
Investigator: _	Signature	Print	Date	
Squad Leader: _				
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Reviewer:	Title/Signature	Print Page 11	Date	